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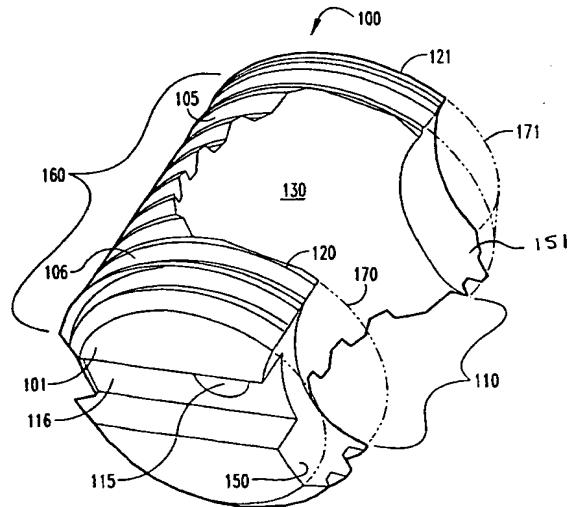
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(54) Title: TRUNCATED OPEN INTERVERTEBRAL SPACERS



(57) Abstract: Open chambered spacers, implanting tools and methods are provided. The spacers (100) include a body (105) having a wall (106) which defines a chamber (130) and an opening (131) in communication with the chamber (130). In one embodiment the wall (106) includes a pair of arms (120, 121) facing one another and forming a mouth (110) to the chamber (130). Each of the arms has an end configured to form a region within which an adjacent spacer can nest. In one aspect the body (105) is a bone dowel comprising an off-center plug from the diaphysis of a long bone. The tool (300) includes spacer engaging means for engaging a spacer and occlusion means for blocking an opening defined in the spacer. In some embodiments, the occlusion means (320) includes a plate (321) extendible from the housing (305). In one specific embodiment the plate (321) defines a groove (322) which is disposed around a fastener (330) attached to the housing (305) so that the plate (321) is slideable relative to the housing (305).

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AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 7 September 2000 (07.09.00);
original claim 36 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

with an interior and exterior surface, at least one of said surfaces of said plate being curved, said occlusion member configured to span to a distal end of the spacer.

37. The tool of claim 36, further comprising a fastener
5 attached to said shaft and wherein said plate defines a groove, said groove disposed around said fastener so that said plate is slidable relative to said housing.

38. The tool of claim 37, wherein said plate has a curved
superior surface which approximates the outer surface of the
10 spacer when said spacer engaging means is engaged to the spacer and said occlusion member is blocking the opening of the spacer.